

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A dissector device useful for dissecting a tissue comprising:
 - an elongated housing comprising an elongated tubular section and having proximal and distal ends and a lumen, said distal end being operative to be inserted within a surgical incision, said housing further comprising a viewing device positioned within the lumen, wherein the viewing device is oriented to view through the distal end of said housing;
 - a tissue spreading dissector mechanism formed upon said distal end of said housing, said tissue spreading dissector mechanism operatively transitional between: a first neutral configuration wherein said tissue spreading dissector mechanism extends from the distal end of said housing; and an operative configuration wherein said tissue spreading dissector mechanism extends outwardly beyond a circumference defined by said elongated tubular section, and said tissue spreader dissecting mechanism comprising opposed blade members configured to provide at least one void formed thereon defining a channel through which said viewing device can view through the distal end of said housing; and
 - an actuator mechanism formed upon said proximal end of said housing operative to selectively cause said tissue spreading dissecting mechanism and tissue spreaders to selectively transition between said neutral and operative configurations.
2. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 1 wherein the opposed blade members are operative to extend in diametrically opposed directions from said distal end of said housing when said tissue spreader dissecting mechanism assumes operative configurations.
3. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 2 wherein said dissector further includes a clamp mechanism for securably holding said viewing device into position within said lumen of said housing.
4. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 3 wherein said clamp mechanism is formed upon said proximal end of said housing.

5. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 1 wherein said housing further includes a stop member formed within the lumen thereof for limiting the distance said viewing device or endoscope can extend distally within said tubular housing.
6. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 1 wherein said actuator mechanism is an actuator bar operatively coupled to handle members and said tissue spreading dissector mechanism, said actuator bar being operative to cause said tissue spreading dissector mechanism to selectively transition between said neutral and operative configurations when said handle members are actuated.
7. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 1 wherein said tissue spreading dissector mechanism comprises a first pair of arms pivotally mounted to an actuator rod and a second pair of arms coupled to said first pair of arms and operative to pivot outwardly relative to said first pair of arms, said second pair of arms having tissue spreader members formed on the respective ends thereof that are operative to transition from said neutral and operative configurations as said first and second arm members pivotally move relative to one another.
8. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 1 wherein said dissector further comprises a channel formed therein for administering an insufflative gas.
9. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 1 wherein said dissector is capable of being axially received within a port.
10. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 9 wherein said dissector is insertable through a port or cannula.
11. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 2 wherein said opposed tissue spreader blade members cooperate to define a conical-shaped configuration when assuming said first neutral position.
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 1 wherein the tissue spreaders of the tissue dissecting mechanism are in electrical communication with a source of electric current, said tissue spreader used for selectively cauterizing tissue.

15.- 41. Cancelled

42. (Previously presented) The dissector of claim 1 wherein said tissue spreading dissector mechanisms comprises a plurality of tissue spreaders having one or more serrated outer edges positioned to facilitate advancement of the tissue spreader through the tissue.